SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1903.

Municipal Ownership.

The question of municipal ownership of public utilities is being agitated in the city of Summit, and has reached a stage much in advance of a similar agitation now going on here. In Summit a committee was appointed some time since to investigate and report upon the feasibility and practicability of municipal ownership of the water plant from which the city now derives its water supply. A majority and a minority report was submitted Tuesday

The minority report, while or posing municipal ownership, sets forth the new terms and conditions under which the Essex Union Water Company would supply water to the city, and if municipal ownership is not adopted, the city will be the galner from the better terms offered by a private company, and probably the direct result of the formidable agitation in favor of municipal ownership

The majority report submitted to the Summit Council bears evidence of an exhaustive investigation of municipal ownership. It shows that in thirty-two cities enjoying municipal ownership of water and . ght systems, having populations ranging from 3,000 to 10,000, the results are highly profitable and beneficial, while the following adverse replies to inquiries are appended: Tayloraville, Ill .- " Free list of deadbeads. Reform administration now in ruleed receipts from \$4,000 to \$8,000." Wellington, Kan .- "Cannot see how it has benefited." Eaton, O,-" Political jobbery and shifting expense to regular Laxpayers." Mechanicsville, N. Y .-. Benefit in no way." Meadville, Pa .-"Btill hoping for some benefit." Continuing, the report says:

"There is undoubtedly a tendency in municipalities at the present time to acquire and own their own water' works plant, and in many cases their own lighting plant. The Municipal Year Book for 1902 shows that in 1,475 towns and cities of a population of 3,000 and upwards reporting a system of water works, not less than 766 were owned by the municipality and 661 by private corporations. In 33 towns or cities there are two plants, one owned by the public, and the other by a private corporation, and in 14 the works were jointly owned.

" Of the 50 largest cities in the United States, 21 have always owned their water works, and 20 changed from private to public ownership. Only 9 are now dependent upon private companies for their supply, these being San Prancisco, New Orleans, Omaha, Denver, Indianapolis, New Haven, Paterson, Scranton, and Memphis.

"The history of municipal ownership relating to water works, as well as the special inquiry made by your committee, conclusively justifies the principle and supports the views entertained by the citizens who have communicated with your committee, as well as the conclusions of your committee. These conclusions are further supported by a comparison of the rates heretofore charged by the Essex-Union Water and Light Company with the prices generally prevailing throughout the United States in public plants.

"In Summit the water rate per year for a single faucet is \$6.25. The meter rate per gallon for 1,000 gallons is as follows: 100 to 300 gallons per day, rate 30 cents per 1,000 gallons; 300 to 1.000 gallons per day, rate 25 cents per 1,000 gallons; 1,000 and over per day, special rates.

"The average of rates of public plants obtained from answers to circulars above referred to is as follows: Average plant rate per year for single faucet, \$5.16; average rate per 1,000 gallons, 16 % cents.

"From the annual report of the Commissioner of Labor for 1902, we learn that the average meter rate per 1,000 gallons in 375 private plants was 15 cents; in 641 public plants, 9 cents. "The average rate per faucet in New

York State is \$4.66; for meter, per 1,000 gallons, 14 cents.

"Rates in Summit would, therefore, seem to have been, under the operation of the contract in question; nearly the maximum rate for water."

COST OF PLANT

THE ORANGE WATER COMPANY SUB-MITS A DETAILED STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL

Setting Forth the Number of Miles of Mains Laid-The Number of Hydrants in Use-Also a Statement of the Company's Income from the

The water supply question is now the absorbing public topic. From the discussion now going on, official and unofficial, it appears that a crisis bus seen reached in that matter, and it is up to the people through their authorized re presentatives to take action.

The Orange Water Company, watch has furnished this town with water for the past twenty years and which has recently sold the major part of its plant to the city of East Orange, it is said, intends to go out of business, and the remainder of its plant and business rights are in the merket for sale. Officially it is stated that the company has offered the town of Bloomfield an option on its plant and bustuess rights here in this town and will give the town first consideration in the proposed sale. The option rice is one hundred and fifty thousand collars, and the time allowed for action er lires on June 25. The official ten ier of this option is as follows: To Mr. George Literson, Chairman Town

Council, Bloom field, N. J .: D. AR SIR: The Crange Water Company will sell to the town of Bloomfield the water pipes, malus, hydrants and house connections owned by the company in said to of Bloomfield for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This proposition includes the right of the Orange Water Company to distribute and sell water in Bloomfield, and is open for acceptance until June 25, 1903. THE ORANGE WATER CO.,

JOSEPH L. MUNN, Attorney. May 18, 1303,

The following letter and detailed statement relative to the company's plant in this town was also furnished by the water company: Mr. Wm. L. Johnson, Town Clerk,

Bloomfield . DEAR SIB: In order that your Town Council may have complete information upon the subject, we send you a detailed

statement of the water distribution system in Bloomfield. The Orange Water Company has been and still is awaiting final action by the

East Orange Council in order to be able more intelligently to deal with your Council; but we will now take up the question with you, and will either make a new contract with provisions changed to meet existing conditions, or if desired to do so will sell you the plant so that it may be managed by your Council directly. We are in a position to do this now, but events may make it impossible later. Yours respectfully, THE ORANGE WATER Co.,

Per J. L. MUNN.

Statement of pipe plant and equipment of the Orange Water Company in the town of Bloomfield :

13,761.17 ft. of 12-in, pipe at 99 lbs. per foot; 1.278,405.30 lbs; 604.7076 tons at \$25.50 a ton, 5,569.81 ft. of 8-in, pipe at 45 lbs. per foot; 250,641.41 lbs.; 125.32)73 tons at 815,4.7 17

\$25.50 per ton. 51,958 79 ft. of 6-in. pipe at 30 lbs. per foot: 1,558 613.70 lbs.; 779,30685 tons at \$25.50 per ton. 6-718 15 ft of i-in pipe at 20 lbs. ger foot; 13,743.63 lbs.; 687.1815 tons at \$25.50 per 'on. Laying 13 761 17 ft. of 12 in. pipe at 430

per foot. Laying 8,569 81 ft. of 8 in, pipe at 33 Laying 51,953.79 ft. of 6 in. pipe at 3 h Laving 68,718,15 ft, of 4-in, tipe at 30per foot. 184 double nozzie fire hydrants (set at \$30,00 each. single nozzle sprinkling hydrants (set) at \$ 0 e ich. 1 le in Gem meter complete pit, etc., 45 by in Ruffalo meters set at \$10.64. 3 by in Estop at \$11.64. The in Crown at at sprinkling standpipes at \$4214. 21 12 in Gates at \$ 3 24. 1 742 92

64,752 lbs. of specials at 103c. per lb. 1 42.56 \$14 417 00 The income of the company from its business here is officially stated as

- 12 12

1220 deduestic services at \$20,000

EAST OBANGE, N. J., May 23, 1963. Mr. George Peterson, Chairman Town

Council, Bloomfield, N. J : DEAR NIB: In respense to your request with reference to the income of the Orange Water Company from its Bloomfield plant, the following figures are submitted from the books of the company, which can be verified on a brief inspection if you desire:

The number of water bills made out for collection in the year April 1, 1902, to March 31, 1903, is 1,357, which shows the number of active tape. The revenue from Bloomfield for the same year is as follows: For bydrants, \$5,420; water bills and masons, \$12,012.45; total cash receipts, \$17,432,45; besides use of water for sewer flushing, street sprinkling and public building, for which a merely nominal rate was paid by offset

It may be useful to you to have some other figures and facts. Bloomfield consumes, under present regulations, about 350,000,000 gallons per year. The cost to the Orange Water Company of such water as it can deliver by pumping from its wells does not exceed \$30 per million gallone. The charge by the Montelair Water Company to local municipalities varies as follows:

To Orange Water Company, per mil-llon gallons, 880; to Harrison, \$89; to Bayonne, \$90; to West Orange Water Company, \$100.

If I can give you further assistance in the way of information aball be glad to do so. In any plat for furnishing water to a municipality, the first thing is the ownership of the distributing plant and the right to sel water. The second thing is the source of supply, its purity and its cost.

Yours respectfully, For the Orange Water Company.

G NEWS, TUESDA

NOT A UNIT ON SUM FOR ROADS

Bloomfield Council Decides to Spend \$10,000 by Vote of Four to Three.

TOTAL TAX BUDGET \$111,800

An ordinance fixing the appropriations for the year was passed at the meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council last night but not until after a long discussion had ensued in an effort to keep the tax rate down by cutting some of the recommendations which Chairman Conian, of the Finance Committee, offered. The principal fight was on the recommendation to appropriate \$10,000 for roads.

Councilman Farrand recommended \$8 000. which, he said, would be afficient. In this he was suggested, by Councilmen Moore and Chabet. Mr. Contan was backed by the remaining members, including Chairman Peterson, with the result that the \$10,000 recommendation was carried by a vote of 4 to 3. Contan. Harrison, Watker and Peterson voting ave-

Chairman Harrison, of the Police Comnumber of laborers at w. k laying the Newark pipe line through the town, and he thought an additional amount should be appropriated for police, and recommended \$6,000, an increase of \$2,000 over last year. He informed his colleagues that if any deficiency existed he did not care to be censured and the council could act as it pleased. The board believed \$5,800 was sufficient, and this amount was agreed to.

The appropriations ma e were as follows: Incidentals, \$13,00 , poor, \$3,500; road repairs, see one police, \$5,800, water, \$7,500; fire, \$3,500 bonds and interest, \$21.-000; street lighting, \$10,000; schools, \$37,500.

Applicants for Li, oor Licenses. Twenty-seven applications for liquor licenses were and by the clerk and all laid over until June 16, when they will be acted upon The unlicants to each of the wards we as fo ws:

First, George B. Tucker, Arthur Leuthausser Willim J. Paab, Henry Trieber, Ernest Juaffaub, Frank Narucki, i s and Disdare Saratelli, Second, Israel Berman, Thomas A. Hallinan, William R. Courter, Stackwell Geiski and Constanti Zbikowski; Third, John Kobff, Alicia Kelly, J. Gilbert Brady, H. Snyder & Sons, William Johnson, Elizabeth Metz, Alfred Johnson, William Parting, Julius Petrine, William Ashworth, Margaret Stewart, Nicholas Duggan and Theodore C. Steenwerth: whole sale license, S. Scheuer & Sons.

The amended report of the Board of Assessors for the improvement of Olive street was objected to by a number of property owners and the mafter was referred to the Road Committee for a report. The improvement of Linden avenue and the assessment fixed by the Board of Assessors was also objected to. "The only way to get at this matter." said Mr. Moore, "is to give all interested

a hearing and then let the Board of Assessors act accordingly." It was finally decided to take the matter up on Wednesday, June 10, at which time Engineer Olmstead and the Board of Assessors will be requested to be present in an effort to settle the dispute.

Minimizing Trolley Accidents. The transfer of the liquor license of Peter A. Wade to William Johnson was granted. Mr. Moore reported that the North Jersey Street Rallway Company had placed troughs on their wires over the Orange branch of the Erie Railrond. He said that he had received assurances from the Orange and Passalc Valley Railway that it, too, would place troughs on the wires at the Lackawanna crossing in Glenwood avenue. These troughs are to prevent trolley car poles from slipping

off in crossing tracks Chief of Police Collins reported fourteer arrests during May and \$40 in fines collected. As there were no objections to the Charles street sewer on the Delaware avenue improvement, the matter was referred to the Board of Assessors for as-

sessment. Upon motion of Mr. Farrand the Water Committee was empowered to employ counsel, if necessary, in the negotiations for a water supply. An ordinance was introduced by title to lay a sewer in Grove street 250 feet south of Watsessing avenue.

Montelair Appropriations.

Ordinances fixing the salaries and appropriations for running the government of Montelair for the year were passed by the Town Council of that place Monday night. The treasurer's salary was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000, which includes his services as costodian of school moneys. The other salaries were fixed as follows: Objet of police, \$1,500; commissioners of appeal, \$3 to \$5 per day; clerk, \$2,000; callector, \$2,000; town attorney, \$1,500; Board of Assessors, \$700 each; overseer of poor, \$400; Chief of fire department \$360; councilmen, \$150 each; superintendent of roads and sewers, \$1,500. The appropriations named were: Street lighting, \$17,500; police, \$17,500; fire, \$13,000; strest repairs, etc., \$22,500; poot, \$3,500; water, \$12,500; interest on debt, \$28,-037.50; sinking fund, \$18,000; incidentale, \$31,000; support of public schools, \$74,984.80; a total of \$238,522 31. Deducting the unexpended balance of last year of \$19,589.40, there must be raised by taxation \$218,932,91.

Summit will Vote on Water. The Summit City Council on Tuesday night passed a resolution providing for submission to the voters at a special election the question of municipal ownership of the Essex and Union Water Company's plant in that city. The maorly report of a ditizen's committee submitted to the Council favored municipal ownership.

Work on the Pipe Line.

Bloomfield Avenue at Second B ver bridge presents a busy segue now and is a great attraction for sprotatore. The contractors who will lay the big water main for the cary of Newark started work there on Mos fay. On the Newark city Ice Company's property near that point, the contractors bave established stable headquarters, and on the property at the southeast corser of Race Street and the avenue the costractors will have a workshop, and have la go quantities of coal, lumber and 'ement's ored there.

The exceration at be sond River will be twenty-two feet lo depth and a tunnel will be bored under the stream. The dirt now being excavated is carted away as tapidly as it is dug out.

BATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1903.

The Linden Avenue Case. It is now two years since the property-owners along Linden Avenue petitioned the Town Council to improve that street by making a continuous flagstone sidewalk, curb and cobbie gutter from Glenwood Avenue to the Glen Ridge Borough line. The petition gave rise to some controversy of a legal character, which was subsequently settled to the satisfaction of the property-owners, and the contracts for the work given out. A peculiar condition existed in the street at the time. Some of the property-owners had flagstone walks in front of their places and others had not. Some also bad curbing, and in some cases there were flag walk, curb and cobble gutter. The object of the petitioners was to have these improvements uniform the entire length of the street. The work dragged along slowly, and after it was reported completed disputes arose over-certain features of the wo c, and it was proposed to settle the difficulty by charging a portion of the cost against the town-at-large. Some of the Linden Avenue property-owners and some of the town afficials objected to

A more serious difficulty, however, was confronted, when the propertyowners began to compare the amount assessed against to m for alleged new work, and the allowance they were entitled to for previously existing flagstone walk, curbidg and cobbie

Councilman Moore, Chairman of the Sidewalk Comittee, sacs that the main difficulty in the I inden Avenue case lies in the fa ' at the proper authorit is neglected to carefully note the existing condition of bings in front of each to one pa , city before the work was und staken, and this absence of specific date 'as led to much confusion. Mr. M. a + proposed solution of the difficulty , to have each propert wher make affidavit as to the impr. mr .ts he pe-essed in the abate of tagstone, curb and cubble gutter . ' :e the general improvement of the street in accordance with the petition was undertaken, and then make the affidavite the basis for assessment charges, silowing, of course, for cost of grading and relaying of walks, curbs and gutters.

The objection to Mr. Moore's plan of settlement will be found in the fact that a specific amount of work has been paid for from the proceeds of notes between the assessments as levied in property-owners and the actual amount certified to by the Town Engineer committee. would in the case of a deficiency be charged against the town, and would not be a legal charge, and would subject the town officials to liability for indictment in case such a compromise was entered into.

The management of the Linden Avenue work from the beginning to its present serious aspect has been a reproach to the town officials responsibie for it. The property-owners themselves appeared to be at a loss how to proceed in the matter of getting themselves out of an entanglement in which they only indefinitely realized that they were involved. It was only after Seymour, P. Gilbert, clerk of the Board of Assessors, met with the property-owners and pointed out to them individually the apparent discrepancies between certification of the engineer and the actual amount of work the assessors were able to find that the property-owners were fully aroused to the situation, and resolved on concerted action in the matter,

Mr. - Gilber 's long experience in public affairs and his ability to set the matter clearly before the Linden Avenue property-owners will accrue to the benefit of the town, and will result in closer personal inspection and vigilance on the part of Town Councilmen and officials in future work of this kind. It has been claimed that Mr. Gilbert's exposure of the Linden Avenue muddle is a violation of the official courtesy that should exist petween all the Councilmen and other official boards or departments of the town government, but the facts are that the Board of

Assessors through Mr. Gilbert ha urged upon the Town Council time and again to settle up the Linden Avenue case, and he even personally pointed out to the Town Council in public meeting the alleged discrepancies that now tend to lead to a charge of almost ericalual negligence against those responsible for the proper and expeditious carrying out of the Linden Avenue work.

En Gilbert cannot be charged with discourteous treatment of the Council men lu fording the Linden Avenue matter to a stage where action must be taken. The work was paid for by interest-bearing notes, and every taxpayer in the town has a personal and vital interest in the matter to the extent of the amount of money he will be called on to pay, because interestbearing notes were allowed to run a year or two longer than they ought to on account of the negligence of the Town Council.

In bringing the Council up with a good round turn, and in causing the Linden Avenue people to wake up and take action, Mr. Gilbert has simply performed his duty both as an official and a citizen, and his action is deserving of appreciation. It simply needed leader in the Linden Avenue matter, and in Mr. Gilbert the people of that street have found a leader who will not be afraid to let the daylight in upon the whole transaction to matter whose feelings are hurt, or whose political aspirations are jeopardized.

It is unfortunate that this, the first step taken under the town act to escourage the putting down of flagstone sidewalk, should have been permitted to prove such a lamentable fallure.

Mr. Gilbert bas always been a stanch advocate of the extension of such public improvements as attractive atreets, and ble argument has been that they quicken development and increase tax ratables, and this latter is the sore need of Bloomfield, as no one knows better or more keenly appreciates than Mr. Gilbert. He was among those who entertained great hopes of the Linden Avenue improvement and its beneficial effect throughout the town. It is no doubt disappointing to him as well as to others to realize that a matter of such vital importance has been so grossly mismanaged.

The Linden Avenue improvement has been a disappointment in more than one way. It was anticipated when the petition was presented that the work would be speedily done, and that if the cost was not excessive, it would result in the similar improvement of many other etreets. It is realized that the patchwork state of many of the streets in town, with their odd and widely separated pieces of cobbie gutter, flagstone walk and curb, is not at all attractive, and it was expected that Linden Avenue would furnish an object escon that would excite the emulation of property-owners in other streets. But the object lesson has sadly falled and turned out more of an obstacle than a etimulant to the general extension of improvements.

Committee of Fifteen Acts.

The committee of fifteen appointed at a public meeting held on Friday evening, May 29, to consider the matter of a water supply for this town held a conference Tuesday ight lo the Town Council room. All the members of the committee were present. Theodore H. Ward presided and Dr. W. F. Harrison was secretary of the meeting. The water question both as to the purchase of mains and the probable source of supply, was d scussed. A committee of c rtifled to by the Town Engineer and three, consisting of G. Lee Stout, Thes. McG wan and Theodore H. Ward, was lesued by the town. Any discrepancy appointed to make further inquiry in regard to the water supply problem and conformity with the affidavits of report at a future meeting. Haisey M. Barrett was retained as counsel to the

Storm Sewer Case.

Testimony was taken yesterday before Supreme Court Commissioner Nicholas W. Bindsell sitting in Chancery Chambers in the matter of the protest made by residents of this town against the assessment levied for the construction of the storm drain traversing many of the thoroughfares in the town and emptying into Oakes' Pond.

According to the papers in the suit the objectors alleged that the seconsment levied against their properties is in excess of actual benefits; that their properties are not specifically benefited; that the assessments are inequitable and, finally, that the construction of the storm drain was a public necessity, and its cost should be borne by the

Halsey M. Barrett and A. H. Hazeltine appeared as counsel for the objectors, and Samuel P. MacDonald and Charles H. Halfpenny for the town.

James Owen, who was town surveyor at the time the storm drain was constructed in 1899, was the chief witness examined. The bearing will continue for some time.

